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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 5 MAR 1954

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SUBJECT Comments on Soviet Article Concerning Proposed Reconstruction of the City of Astrakhan

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The paper, "Vodniy Transport" of 16 Apr 53, No 6, carried a big story entitled "In USSR Port Towns" which dealt with the reconstruction of several USSR port towns including the city of Astrakhan. Details on impending reconstruction in that town were given in an article entitled "New Projects".

2. The article states that the approved project to rebuild the city of Astrakhan was carried out by the Leningrad State Institute for Municipal Economy Planning. This project provides for the following:

   (a) Construction of buildings several stories high (I believe at the most four to five stories) to be carried out along the main town thoroughfare, leading from the center of town out towards the district. This means it will follow Kirova, Sovetskoy, Babushkina, Trusova, Voroshilova, and Shaumyana streets.

   (b) Creation of parks, playgrounds, public-gardens. Special attention will be given to the planting of vegetation on all city streets bordering on The Volga, Kutuma and Kanaby Rivers. In the area of the railroad station construction of a Central Park of Culture and Rest is provided for. The park will consist of a well-designed green forest with lakes and ponds, row-boats, swimming pavillions, and summer houses.

   (c) Construction of a House of Culture, Stadium and Park in the "Leninskom Rayonne", I believe in the area presently occupied by the Karl Marx Central Park of Culture and Rest (formerly "Arkadia gardens).

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(d) Creation of a belt of trees and shrubbery which will protect the town from the penetrating dry eastern sites.

(e) Restoration of the Astrakhan Kreml, particularly towers, walls and slopes. In 1951 the walls and towers of the Kreml were badly damaged due to old age, and this decay was hastened to a considerable extent by the military section of the Astrakhan garrison which is stationed in the Kreml.

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(f) The center of town will be located south of the Kreml. Here the parade ground, the House of Soviets with the main facade towards the Volga, monumental public buildings and apartment houses will be located. [redacted] pro-

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posed restoration of this part of town. The intention was to tear down the "Trudovykh Reservov" Stadium and build in its place a parade ground. There was also a plan to tear down the jail (located opposite the stadium) and a number of apartment houses and building the House of Soviets on their site. West of the parade ground, coming out on "Trusova" Street, a five-story building for the "Kaydtanker" shipping line administration was supposed to go up. This building was to be equipped with apartments for personnel of the shipping line. This building when erected would take over part of the pioneer gardens. Wooden dwellings in the area of the stadium and along Shaumyana Street were to be torn down and in their place brick houses were to be built.

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(g) Erection of a Central Stadium in the vicinity of the Volga and Bolda Rivers confluence.

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[redacted]

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